

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/001176

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
Int.Cl⁷ H04N7/16

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Int.Cl⁷ H04N7/16-7/173, 7/10, 7/24-7/68

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|-----------|
| Jitsuyo Shinan Koho | 1922-1996 | Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho | 1994-2004 |
| Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho | 1971-2004 | Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho | 1996-2004 |

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|-----------|--|---|
| X | JP 2002-353964 A (Sony Corp.), 06 December, 2002 (06.12.02), All pages; all drawings (Family: none) | 1, 4, 9, 14, 17, 22, 24, 27, 32, 34, 37, 58, 61, 66, 72, 74, 75, 80-82, 87-89, 94-96 |
| Y | | 12, 42, 44, 51, 76, 83, 90, 97-104 |
| Y | JP 9-23214 A (Hitachi, Ltd.), 21 January, 1997 (21.01.97), All pages; all drawings (Family: none) | 12, 42, 44, 51, 76, 83, 90, 97-104 |

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search
21 June, 2004 (21.06.04)Date of mailing of the international search report
06 July, 2004 (06.07.04)Name and mailing address of the ISA/
Japanese Patent Office

Authorized officer

Facsimile No.

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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|-----------|--|--|
| X | JP 11-177628 A (Mitsubishi Electric Corp.), 02 July, 1999 (02.07.99), All pages; all drawings & EP 930755 A1 & US 6166727 A | 1, 4, 9, 14, 17, 22, 24, 27, 32, 34, 37, 58, 61, 66, 72, 74, 75, 80-82, 87-89, 94-96 |
| A | | 12, 42, 44, 51, 76, 83, 90, 97-104 |
| X | JP 2002-94560 A (Sony Corp.), 29 March, 2002 (29.03.02), All pages; all drawings (Family: none) | 1, 4, 9, 14, 17, 22, 24, 27, 32, 34, 37, 58, 61, 66, 72, 74, 75, 80-82, 87-89, 94-96 |
| A | | 12, 42, 44, 51, 76, 83, 90, 97-104 |
| A | JP 10-23380 A (Canon Inc.), 23 January, 1998 (23.01.98), All pages; all drawings (Family: none) | 1, 4, 9, 12, 14, 17, 22, 24, 27, 32, 34, 37, 42, 44, 51, 58, 61, 66, 72, 74-76, 80-83, 87-90, 94-104 |

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Box No. II**Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)**

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III**Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)**

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

(See extra sheet)

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.: 1, 4, 9, 12, 14, 17, 22, 24, 27, 32, 34, 37, 42, 44, 51, 58, 61, 66, 72, 74-76, 80-83, 87-90, 94-104

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
 No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

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Continuation of Box No.III of continuation of first sheet(2)

The inventions of claims 1-110 have a common technical feature that distribution is performed by a plurality of sessions (at least one of them is a multi-cast or broad-cast).

However, this technical feature is disclosed in Document 1 (JP 2002-353964 A (Sony Corporation), 06 December, 2002 (06.12.02) whole pages, whole drawings), Document 2 (JP 11-177628 A (Mitsubishi Electric Corporation), 02 July, 1999 (02.07.99), whole pages, whole drawings), and Document 3 (JP 2002-94560 A (Sony Corporation), 29 March, 2002 (29.03.02), whole pages, whole drawings) and cannot be a special technical feature within the meaning of PCT Rule 13.2, second sentence. Moreover, Document 1 also discloses the technique for selecting a session according to a band required for content distribution and Document 1 and Document 2 disclose the technique for selecting a session according to the compression ratio.

Accordingly, in claims 1-110, the special technical feature within the meaning of PCT Rule 13.2, second sentence is divided into the following seven independent technical features.

Claims 1, 4, 9, 12, 14, 17, 22, 24, 27, 32, 34, 37, 42, 44, 51, 58, 61, 66, 72, 74-76, 80-83, 87-90, 94-104 relate to a technique for selecting a session according to the compression ratio.

Claims 2, 10, 11, 15, 25, 35, 59, 67, 68, 70, 73, 78, 85, 92 relate to a technique for selecting a session according to a receiver.

Claims 3, 13, 16, 23, 26, 33, 36, 43, 50, 57, 60, 71, 79, 86, 93 relate to a technique for setting information associated with a secret for each session selected by the compression ratio.

Claims 5-7, 18-20, 28-30, 38-40, 45-49, 52-56, 62-64, 105, 106 relate to a technique for selecting a session according to the type of the image frame and the image block.

Claims 8, 21, 31, 41, 65 relate to a technique for controlling the reception quality at the receiver side by changing the information associated with the secret according to the receiver.

Claims 69, 77, 84, 91 relates to a technique for distributing audio coded data by a plurality of sessions.

Claims 107-110 relate to a technique for controlling the audio coded data to be transmitted, according to the audio data reception device at the destination.

Thus, the inventions of claims 1, 4, 9, 12, 14, 17, 22, 24, 27, 32, 34, 37, 42, 44, 51, 58, 61, 66, 72, 74-76, 80-83, 87-90, 94-104, claims 2, 10, 11, 15, 25, 35, 59, 67, 68, 70, 73, 78, 85, 92, claims 3, 13, 16, 23, 26, 33, 36, 43, 50, 57, 60, 71, 79, 86, 93, claims 5-7, 18-20, 28-30, 38-40, 45-49, 52-56, 62-64, 105, 106, claims 8, 21, 31, 41, 65, claims 69, 77, 84, 91, and claims 107-110 do not involve the same or corresponding special technical feature. Accordingly, these groups of inventions are not united into one invention nor so linked as to form a single general inventive concept.

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Consequently, claims 1-110 do not satisfy the requirement of unity of invention and is divided into seven groups of inventions.